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MEMOIR OF EDWARD JARVIS, M.D.

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EDWARD JARVIS, the son of Francis and Melicent Jarvis, was born in Concord, Massachusetts, January 9, 1803. His parents were persons of high character both as to intelligence and as to moral worth; and his father was among those prominent citizens of Concord, who in the early part of the present century made that town a nursery of strength and virtue for the young people who grew up under their influence. Edward's father, in 1819, had one son in college; and though Edward had a strong desire for a liberal education, he was unwilling to impose an added burden on the moderate competence which the family enjoyed. For this reason alone he sought employment in a woollen manufactory in Stow, where he remained eighteen months. At the end of that time the proprietor told Mr. Jarvis that, while his son worked faithfully and well, it was evident that his heart was in his books. His father therefore withdrew him and placed him at school. He commenced fitting for college at the public school in Concord, which was then kept by a college graduate, and finished his preparatory studies at the Westford Academy. He entered college in 1822 and graduated in 1826, having maintained a good rank in his class, and won the sincerest respect and regard of his teachers, and the lifelong affection of those of his classmates whose habits of mind and of life brought them into relation with him.

On leaving college he kept school for a short time in Concord, commencing at the same time the study of medicine with Dr. Bartlett. He subsequently became a pupil of the elder Dr. Shattuck in Boston, and under his direction practised gratuitously among the poor families that were then thickly clustered in the western portion of the city. He attended the required courses of lectures in Boston, and also the medical courses of an entire year in the University of Vermont. Taking his medical degree in 1830, in the summer of

that year he established himself as a physician in Northfield, Massachusetts, with good prospect of permanent success. But a vacancy that occurred in the profession in his native place, induced him to return thither in 1831.

In 1834 he married Almira Hunt, of Concord, who was thenceforth his faithful helper in his entire life-work, and whose blended strength and beauty of character, veiled by modesty and reserve from the larger world, have left the most precious memories with all whose privilege it was to know her.

In 1837 Dr. Jarvis removed to Louisville, Kentucky. Here he had an extensive and successful, but not a largely remunerative practice. While he entered into no controversy and encountered no hostility, he did not conceal his opinion with regard to slavery. At the same time his severe simplicity of manners and his plain style of living were undoubtedly hindrances in the way of obtaining a lucrative business. Yet he had there many strongly attached friends, and his labors and influence were recognized as of no little value in the educational and philanthropic institutions of the city and the state. But he was too thoroughly a New England man to be permanently satisfied with modes of thought and life very widely different from those in which he felt a birthright. He therefore returned to Massachusetts, and in 1843 settled in Dorchester, which was his home for the residue of his life. Here he came at once into a good circle of general practice, which he retained as long as he wanted it, and indeed longer; for there were families that would not give him up at his own request, and remained under his charge until by reason of bodily infirmity he was no longer able to serve them.

But while in Kentucky he had become greatly interested in insanity, and shortly after his removal to Dorchester he began to receive insane patients in his own house. In the treatment of these cases he was signally successful, supplementing the resources of professional science and skill with the still more efficient regimen of the most assiduous kindness, in which he had the constant aid of his excellent wife. His restored patients were ever afterward his grateful and loving friends, his frequent visitors, and in some cases his habitual correspondents. This is readily understood by those who were intimate with him in his home, and who saw the well-being and comfort of his patients the one supreme domestic care and interest, throwing everything else into the background; while calorific light-beams of tender pity and love seemed to be perpetually forcing their way into the clouded or darkened intellect.

Dr. Jarvis was for many years officially connected with the Institution for the Blind and the School for Idiots in South Boston, and had the charge of both of those institutions during several long absences of Dr. Howe. He constantly bestowed upon their interests a large amount of time and labor, and was the confidential adviser of their teachers and managers. Of the School for Idiots he was

for many years, and till his death, the titular superintendent,—an office which, except as to compensation, was no sinecure, until he became too feeble for active duty.

Dr. Jarvis was thoroughly versed in the science of physiology, as it was understood and taught in his youth and prime, though for the last twenty or thirty years his studies have been diverted into other channels. Nearly forty years ago he prepared for the use of schools a smaller and a larger treatise on physiology,—books which, while scientifically thorough, are rich, yet unobtrusively so, in the application of the truths of science to their sanitary and moral uses. Of these books it is enough to say that, without any of the methods usually employed to give currency to school-books, they were at once adopted in many of the best schools, were regarded with distinguishing favor by many teachers of the highest reputation, and remained in extensive use for more than the normal life-time of a generation.

Dr. Jarvis must have had special native endowments for the science of statistics, though he always made it secondary and auxiliary to philanthropic uses. His main purpose in the manipulation of figures was to determine or prove laws of health, whether of mind, body or soul. He justly regarded the tabulated results of actual enumeration as the only proper basis for sanitary regulations, for specific modes of treatment in certain forms of disease, physical and mental, and for conclusions in very many cases of the mutual relation and interaction of physical and moral causes and effects. He recognized the fallibility of figures, and was therefore always careful, when the subject was not self-limited, to let his figures cover a sufficient extent of time, space, or both, to merge exceptional periods or districts in the general or average result. It is believed that no man of his time dealt so largely, so skilfully or so usefully, with figures as he; and it was by virtue of a rightful and acknowledged primacy that he held for many years the place of President of the American Statistical Association. In 1860 he represented that association in a convention of statisticians held in London, in which he took a prominent part and received numerous attestations of the value attached to his labors by his fellow-laborers in all the countries of Europe. He was in frequent correspondence—with exchange of documents—with all well known official and amateur statisticians on the other side of the Atlantic, and had a large polyglot library of statistical publications as the result of such correspondence. He prepared the report and digest of mortality for the United States Census of 1860, and performed important labor for that of 1870.

Dr. Jarvis was a ready, able and copious writer. He was a contributor to almost all our leading literary and medical periodicals, besides printing independently not a few lectures and addresses. His writings cover a very wide range of subjects, among which the treatment of the insane, sanitary laws and measures, physical, mental

and moral education, and the causes and remedies of vice and crime, hold a foremost place. He never wrote except with philanthropic purpose; and on many subjects now of general interest, his were pioneer essays, designed and adapted to wake the public mind to pressing needs and urgent claims. The strongest proof of a writer's influence is often found in the fact that the lapse of a few years makes his most forceful writings trite and obsolete. This would probably be the case, in many instances, in which Dr. Jarvis was a boldly original writer, but was overtaken by the public opinion which he largely helped to create. Thus a collection of his writings would fail to do him justice, simply because people in general have learned to think and act as he led the way. Had he bestowed on one great work the ability, labor, research and skill which he scattered along many years on subjects that were or deserved to be of immediate interest, he would have left a larger and more enduring reputation, while performing not a tithe of the service that he actually rendered to human progress and welfare.

We append to this notice a list of his writings, most, but not all of them, published in some form. It will be seen from this list how wide a field his pen traversed, and never, as it is believed, aimlessly or fruitlessly.

In 1874 Dr. Jarvis had a slight attack of paralysis, from which he recovered only slowly and partially. For two or three years after this illness he was unable to perform any labor of pen or mind. But he gradually resumed his working power, and commenced compiling materials for the history of his native town.

In 1880 he completed a manuscript volume of six hundred and fifty pages, entitled "Traditions and Reminiscences of Concord from 1719 to 1878." In 1883 he added to it another large volume, entitled "Houses and People of Concord, 1810-1820," containing biographical sketches of "the prominent people who contributed to the advancement of the town." These volumes are deposited in the Concord Public Library. They are written with great care and precision, and include all of the local history that can be of any essential value for coming generations.

Dr. Jarvis's character was built on the early laid and substantial basis of Christian faith and piety. The Supreme Exemplar of excellence was his model and his guide. No man can ever have lived with a more definite and pervading purpose of usefulness. He was always on the watch for opportunities of doing good, and that not only in specific services, but in all the details of common life and daily intercourse. It may be doubted whether he was ever known to say an unkind word to or of any person, and those who knew him from his boyhood cannot recall a word or act of his which they could wish to forget.

He died not of acute or painful disease, but by the slow and kindly decay of nature, and passed away quietly on the 31st of Oc-

tober, 1884. His wife, whose whole life had been bound up in his, bore his departure with calm and hopeful resignation; but the strain was too great for an already enfeebled frame, and on the third day from his death she sank into a peaceful slumber, from which there was no waking in this world. The funeral service was performed for them both on the 5th of November, in the church in which for more than forty years they had been constant and devout worshippers and communicants.

A LIST OF WRITINGS OF DR. EDWARD JARVIS.

1829. Anatomy and Physiology of Vegetables. Concord Lyceum. Dissertation. Boylston Prize. MS.
 Analogies of Vegetable and Animal Life. MS.
 Vegetable Products. Food. Concord Lyceum, Northfield, Greenfield, Warwick, Winchester, Athol. MS.
 Vegetable Products,—Wood. Concord Lyceum. MS.
 Puerperal Fever. Graduation Thesis.
1830. Chemistry.—Thermometer, Heat, Electricity, Oxygen, Combustion, Salts, Lime, Minerals, &c. Six Lectures, Northfield Lyceum, Dec. 1830 to April 1831.
 Lectures on Anatomy, as showing the wisdom of the Creator and His continuing watchfulness and benevolence. Northfield Sunday School Teachers. Eight Lectures. Again, read in Concord to Teachers, 1883.
 Properties of Life. Northfield and Greenfield Lyceums.
1831. Analogies and Differences of Vegetable and Animal Economy. Northfield and Greenfield Lyceums.
1832. Peculiarities and Habits of Animals. Northfield Lyceum.
 Vegetable Anatomy and Physiology. Two Lectures. Northfield Lyceum.
 Cholera in Warwick. Medical Magazine, 1832.
 Effect of Pre-judgment on Formation of Opinion,—Independent Habits of Thought. Concord Lyceum.
1833. Analogies of Vegetable and Animal Life. Scientific Tracts. Stow, Harvard and Framingham Lyceums.
 Ladies' Fairs. New England Magazine.
1835. Mixed Diet. Concord and Lexington Lyceums.
 Pathology of Intemperance. A series of articles in Boston Mercantile Journal.
 Temperance. Bedford.
1836. Diet. Concord Lyceum.
 Vegetable Diet. Concord Lyceum.
 Intemperance and Disease. Boston Medical Journal.
 Intemperance, First Steps. Concord, Lexington and Sudbury.
1837. Address to Sunday Schools, July 4th. Louisville.
1840. Properties of Life. Lectures, Louisville. MS.
1841. Insanity in Kentucky and the West. Louisville Medical Journal. Pamphlet.
 Insanity and Insane Asylums. Louisville Med. Jour. Pam.
1842. What shall we do with our Insane? " " "

- Insanity in Indiana. Louisville Medical Journal.
 Early Hospitals for the Insane. Boston Medical Journal.
 McLean Asylum. Review of Report. Lou. Med. Journal.
 Statistics of Insanity. Lou. Med. Journal.
 Insanity in Massachusetts. Articles in Boston Mer. Journal.
 Conditions of Health. Two Lectures. Concord Lyceum.
 Reminiscences of a Medical Student. Boston Journal.
 1843. Registration and Sickness. Mass. Med. Society.
 Review of Mann's Report. Common School Journal.
 Insanity among the Colored Population. Phila. Med. Journal.
 Law of Physical Life. Christian Examiner.
 Vital Statistics. Mass. Med. Society.
 1844. Insanity in the Colored Population. Journal of Insanity.
 Population of the United States, approximate comparison of longevity in Northern and Southern States. British Assoc. for Advancement of Science. Statistical So. Journal.
 Influence of Climate on Longevity. Boylston Prize Dissertation. Received prize of \$60.
 Insanity in the Colored Population. Boston Med. Journal.
 1845. Health Laws. Two Lectures. Dorchester, Concord. MS.
 Respiration. Lecture. Neponset, Concord. MS.
 Diet and Digestion. Lecture. Concord. MS.
 Interment. Review of Dunglison. Phila. Med. Jour.
 Sixth Census of the United States, Errors. Statistical Association. Sent to Congress and printed by Congress. Hunt's Merchants' Mag.
 1846. Air, Ventilation, Respiration. Lecture. Concord. MS.
 Idiots. Lecture. Concord.
 Vital Organs. Lecture. Dorchester and Concord.
 Study of Physiology. Hartford, American Teachers' Asso.
 Practical Physiology.
 1847. Primary Physiology.
 Insane Hospitals in Massachusetts. Boston Mer. Jour.
 Increase of Insanity. Superintendents' Association. Journal of Insanity.
 1848. Sanitary Survey of the State. Statistical Association. Mass. Med. Soc. Memorial to Legislature.
 Health of Towns, Report. Review of. Phila. Med. Jour.
 1849. Sanitary Survey of State. Mass. Med. Soc. Statistical Association. Memorial to Legislature.
 Hospitals for the Insane, Mass. Boston Mer. Journal.
 Production of Vital Force. Address to Mass. Med. Soc.
 Idiots. Review of Reports. Phila. Med. Jour.
 New Hospital for the Insane. Boston Med. Jour.
 History of McLean Asylum. Christian Examiner.
 Review of Ventilation. Phila. Med. Jour.
 1850. Insanity in Sexes. Assoc. of Superintendents. Journal of Insanity.
 Letter to State Sanitary Commiss. in Commissioner's Report.
 Effect of Distance on Use of Lunatic Hospitals. Boston Med. Journal.
 Vital Statistics of New England. American Med. Association Trans.

- Statistics of Insanity. Boston Med. Jour.
1851. Review of Mr. Shattuck's Health Report. Phila. Med. Jour.
Plan of Insane Hospitals. Boston Med. Jour.
Review of Shattuck's Report. " " "
Idiots. Lecture. Concord and Neponset.
Census of Insanity. Mass. Med. Soc. Boston Med. Jour.
1852. Review of Registration, Mass. Phila. Med. Journal.
Causes of Insanity. Lecture. Concord.
Increase of Insanity. Jour. of Insanity. April.
Review of Bowditch's History of McLean Asylum. Christian Ex.
Life of Dr. Thaxter. Boston Med. Jour.
Ventilation, Review. " " "
Annual Address. Norfolk Med. Soc.
Judge Leland and the Norfolk Insane.
Insane of Norfolk County. Med. Society.
Causes of Insanity. Norfolk Med. Society.
1854. Dr. Shattuck's Life and Character.
1855. Registration, Mass. Phila. Med. Journal,
Petition to Legislature for better Registration.
Insane and Idiots. Mass. State Report.
Report of Committee on New Hospital.
History of Lunacy Commission. Med. Journal.
Doings of Lunacy Commission. Superintendents' Asso.
Code of Health Laws for Dorchester.
Address of Lunacy Commission to Physicians of Massachusetts.
1856. Occupation and Longevity. Statistical Asso. Trans.
" " " Boston Med. Jour.
Address. Northampton.
Study of the Law of Life. Dedham.
1857. Character of Samuel Hoar. Christian Examiner.
Distribution of Hospital Reports. Journal of Insanity.
1858. Tendency of Unbalanced Mind to Insanity. Journal of Education.
Law of Registration. American Med. Assoc. Trans.
1859. Review of Wynne. Phila. Med. Journal.
Causes of Insanity. North Am. Review.
Law of Insanity, Mass. Law Reporter.
Health of Back Bay. Petition.
1860. Taxation in Massachusetts. British Assoc. for the Advancement
of Science, London.
Vital Statistics in United States. Trans. of the International Sta-
tistical Congress, London.
Improvements in Census Inquiry. Trans. Statistical Congress,
London.
Physiological Origin of Crime. Trans. Statistical Cong., London.
Provision for the Criminal Insane. Journal of Insanity.
Code of Health Laws. Dorchester.
Private Asylums. Journal of Insanity.
1861. Labor in Hospitals. " "
Report of Committee on Memorial for Board of Health.
Memorial for Board of Health, State Report.
Travels in England. Statistical Association, Boston.
Housekeepers and Health. Dorchester Conversational Club.
Petition for Sanitary Care of the Army.

1862. Worcester Hospital Report. (State Doc.)
Sanitary Condition of the Army. Atlantic Monthly.
Diseases, Medical and Surgical, of the Army. Norfolk Med. Soc.
1863. Report on Army Hospitals, to Sanitary Commission.
Worcester Hospital Report. (State Doc.)
1865. Worcester Hospital Memorial. (Legislative Doc.)
1866. Intemperance and Disease,—Mortality. Norfolk Med. Soc. Boston Med. Jour. Pr.
Mortality Volume in U. S. Census,
Distance, Effect of, on Use of Hospitals. N. Y. Journal of Insanity.
1867. Report of Idiot School.
Report of Blind Institution.
1868. Mortality of Foundlings. (Legislative Doc.)
Character and History of American Asylums. Letter to Sir James Clark.
1869. Mania Transitoria. Journal of Insanity.
Trial of Andrews. Boston Med. Jour.
Letters to Committee of Congress. Report to Committee of Congress. Ninth Census.
Increase of Human Life.
Effect of Cities on Human Life. Mass. Med. Society.
1870. Provision for the Insane.
Statistical Tables for Hospital Reports.
Life of Dr. Conolly.
1871. Education and Insanity. U. S. Education Report.
Immigration. Atlantic Monthly.
1872. Infant Mortality. State Health Report.
Population of U. S., History of Progress. Am. Statistical Assoc.
International Statistical Congress. Petersburg. Annales Demographi, Paris.
Laws of Health. Eleven Lectures for Mr. Gannett's School, Boston.
1873. Physiological Origin of Crime. Social Science.
Effect of War upon Births. Health Association.
1874. Advantages of Common Education to Common Labor. U. S. National Education Report.
1877. History and Progress of Population in the United States.
1878. Social and Domestic History of Concord, Mass. Traditions and Reminiscences.
1883. Financial Connection of the Use of Spirits and Wine with the People of Concord, Mass.
1884. The Supposed Decay of Families. Historical and Genealogical Register.

HISTORY.—History touches all human life, on every side. It instructs the individual. It gives a new tone to a community. It elevates a nation. It enlivens a generation. It inspires the human race. All that may be known, remembered, felt, loved, hated, venerated or shunned; all things and all ideas, cognizable by the human mind, or which excite human emotion, all spiritual as well as all material things, are found within its domain.—*Hon. John A. Andrew.*